

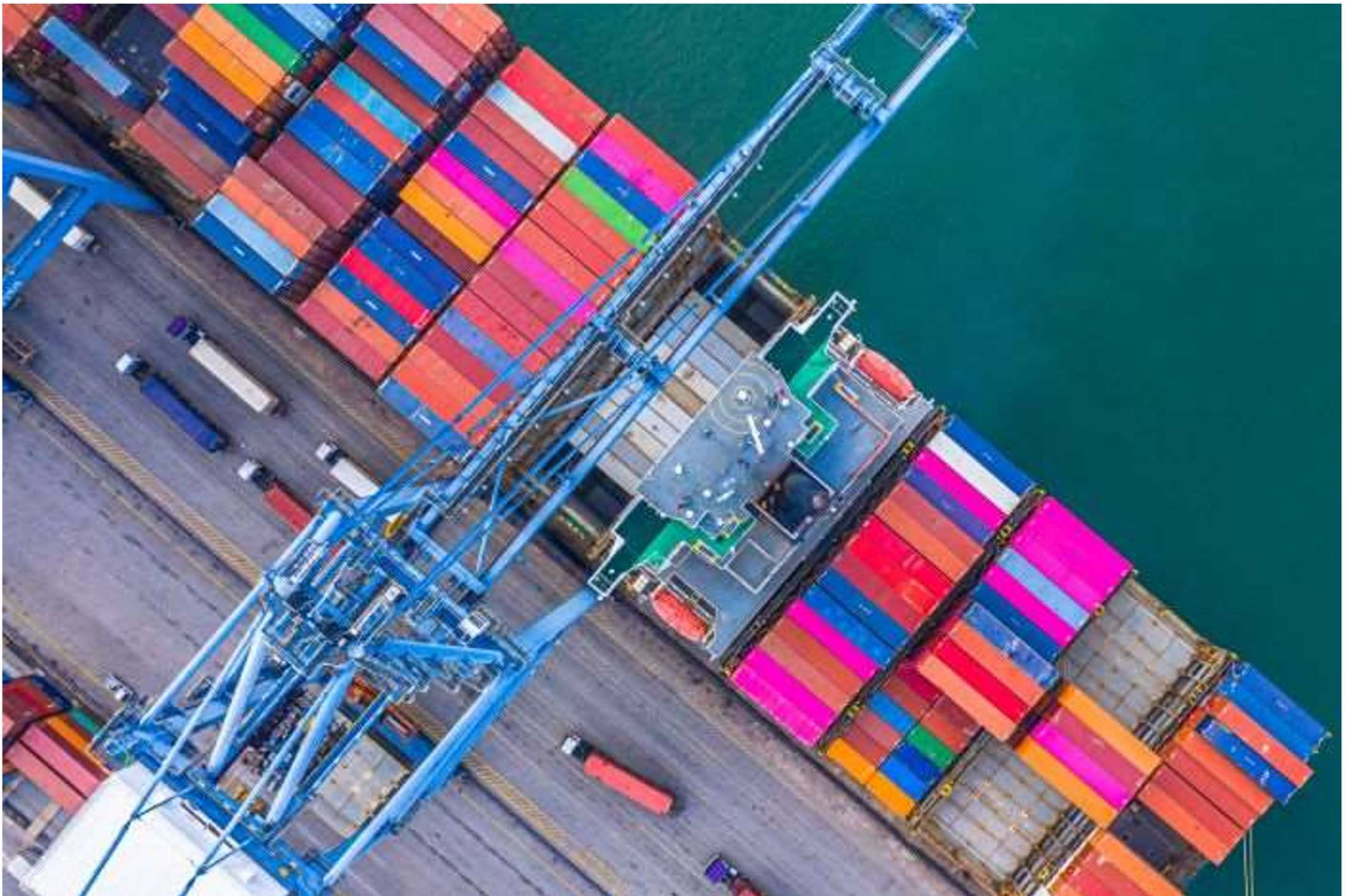


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Michael Angell, Associate Editor | Sep 30, 2021 1:57PM EDT



One of the oldest US shipper lobbying groups is pushing Congress to put more teeth into laws governing ocean transportation. Photo credit: Shutterstock.com.

The National Industrial Transportation League (NITL) has appointed a new executive director who formerly handled government affairs for the largest US trade group representing brokers and forwarders. The new director, Nancy O’Liddy, comes to the job as the NITL readies to push Congress to reform the main law governing ocean transportation.

Outgoing NITL executive director Jennifer Hedrick said in a statement Thursday that she will step down after serving in the role for five years. Hedrick said she and another employee are leaving as NITL ends a professional management services agreement with MCI USA.

O’Liddy served for 12 years as a specialist in government affairs for the Transportation Intermediaries Association, the advocacy arm for third-party logistics providers. Prior to that, she

was director of public affairs for the Truckload Carrier Association.

“Nancy will ensure the League’s priorities and general business matters will continue to be executed,” Hedrick said in the statement. “She will work...on the range of pressing issues across ocean, rail and highway industrial freight transportation the League is currently engaged in as an organization and with our coalitions.”

The NITL’s biggest current initiative is a rewrite of the US Shipping Act of 1984. The group submitted a series of reforms to Congress in May, arguing the current supply chain chaos has “exposed gaps in the law governing ocean carrier services that warrant immediate action.” Much of the proposed reforms focus on demurrage and detention practices by ocean carriers.

Those reforms have made their way into the Ocean Shipping Reform Act of 2021 introduced by Rep. John Garamendi, D-Calif., in June. It currently has 28 cosponsors in the House, 12 Democrats and 16 Republicans.

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